

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for servicing email at a client of a sender of an email comprising:

receiving a request at the client of the sender to send [[an]] the email;

determining at the client of the sender whether the email to be sent includes one or more attachments;

determining whether a recipient of the email has distributed storage separate from an incoming email server of the recipient for storing email attachments, if the email to be sent includes one or more attachments;

determining a network address of the recipient's distributed storage for storing email attachments, if the recipient has such distributed storage;

determining whether the recipient's distributed storage is available to receive the one or more attachments upon determining the network address;

if the recipient has distributed storage for storing email attachments and the distributed storage is available to accept said one or more attachments:

sending a main body of the email to the incoming email server of the recipient;

sending an instruction to the recipient's distributed storage to submit a request for the one or more attachments of the email; and

upon receipt of such a request, sending the one or more attachments of the email to the recipient's distributed storage for email.

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2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining of whether the recipient of the email has distributed storage separate from an incoming email server of the recipient for storing email attachments comprises querying a recipient email distributed storage location server.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining of the network address of the recipient's distributed storage for storing email attachments comprises querying a recipient email distributed storage location server.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining of whether the recipient's distributed storage is available to receive the one or more attachments comprises pinging the recipient's email distributed storage using said determined network address.

5. – 8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising sending the main body of the email and the one or more attachments of the email to the incoming email server of the recipient if the recipient has distributed storage but the distributed storage is not available to accept said one or more attachments.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising sending the main body of the email and the one or more attachments of the email to the

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incoming email server of the recipient if the recipient does not have distributed storage for email attachments.

11. – 12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) A method for servicing email at a server comprising:

receiving at the server an email on behalf of a recipient, the email including a main body and one or more attachments;

determining whether the recipient of the email has distributed storage for storing email attachments by querying a recipient email distributed storage location server;

determining a network address of the recipient's distributed storage for storing email attachments, if the recipient has such distributed storage;

determining periodically whether the recipient's distributed storage is available to receive the one or more attachments upon determining the network address;

sending an instruction to the recipient's distributed storage to submit a request for the one or more attachments of the email; and

upon such a request, sending the one or more attachments of the email to the recipient's distributed storage for email attachments.

14. (Canceled)

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15. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said determining of the network address of the recipient's distributed storage for storing email attachments comprises querying a recipient email distributed storage location server.

16. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said determining of whether the recipient's distributed storage is available to receive the one or more attachments comprises pinging the recipient's email distributed storage using said determined network address.

17. – 18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) A method for an email distributed storage location server, comprising:

receiving a registration to register an email user's distributed storage for email attachments, said user being a part of a peer-to-peer communication system;

storing a network address of the email user's distributed storage for email attachments;

receiving a request from a requestor for the network address of the email user's distributed storage for email attachments; and

providing the requestor with the network address of the email user's distributed storage for email attachments.

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20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the requestor is a sender of an email.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the requestor is an email server associated with an email recipient.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) A method for servicing email at a client of a recipient of an email comprising:

receiving at the client of the recipient of the email a request from a user in a peer-to-peer communication system to access an attachment of an email;

determining whether a distributed storage for storing email attachments for the user is accessible and, if so, whether the attachment is stored in said distributed storage; and

retrieving the attachment from the distributed storage if the attachment is stored by the distributed storage and retrieving the attachment from an incoming email server if the attachment is not stored by the distributed storage.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein said determining of whether the user's distributed storage for email attachments is accessible comprises pinging the user's distributed storage for email attachments.

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25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23, wherein said retrieving the attachment further comprises retrieving the attachment from the user's distributed storage for storing email attachments if the user's distributed storage for storing email attachments is accessible, and the attachment is stored in the ~~users-~~user's distributed storage for storing email attachments.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23, wherein retrieving the attachment further comprises retrieving the attachment from an incoming email server of the user if the user's distributed storage for storing email attachments is accessible, and the attachment is not stored in the ~~users-~~user's distributed storage for storing email attachments.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23, wherein retrieving the attachment further comprises attempting to retrieve the attachment from an incoming email server of the user if the ~~users-~~user's distributed storage for storing email attachments is not accessible.

28. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:
a storage medium having stored therein a plurality of executable programming instructions that, when executed, perform the following steps for servicing email at a client of a sender of an email:

receiving a request to send an email to a recipient in a peer-to-peer communication system;

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determining whether the email to be sent includes one or more attachments;

determining whether the recipient of the email has distributed storage separate from an incoming email server of the recipient for storing email attachments by querying a recipient email distributed storage location server, if the email to be sent includes one or more attachments;

determining a network address of the recipient's distributed storage for storing email attachments, if the recipient has such distributed storage;

determining whether the recipient's distributed storage is available to receive the one or more attachments upon determining the network address;

servicing said request to send said email based at least in part on the results of said determinations; and

a processor coupled to the storage medium to execute the programming instructions.

29. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein said programming instructions are further configured to send the one or more attachments of the email to the recipient's distributed storage, if the recipient has distributed storage for storing email attachments, and the distributed storage is available to accept said one or more attachments.

30. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein said programming instructions are further configured to send an instruction to the recipient's distributed storage to submit a request for the one or more attachments of

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the email, if the recipient has distributed storage for storing email attachments, and the distributed storage is available to accept said one or more attachments.

31. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein said programming instructions are further configured to send the one or more attachments of the email to the recipient's distributed storage for email attachments upon receipt of a request from the recipient's distributed storage for the one or more attachments of the email.

32. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein said programming instructions are further configured to retry to send the one or more attachments of the email to the recipient's distributed storage in accordance with a retry policy, if the recipient has distributed storage and the distributed storage is not immediately available to accept said one or more attachments.

33. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein said programming instructions are further configured to send the one or more attachments of the email to the incoming email server of the recipient if the recipient has distributed storage and the distributed storage is not available to accept said one or more attachments.

34. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein said programming instructions are further configured to send the one or more attachments

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of the email to the incoming email server of the recipient if the recipient does not have distributed storage for email attachments.

35. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a storage medium having stored therein a plurality of executable programming instructions that, when executed, perform the following steps for servicing email at a client in a peer-to-peer communication system:

receiving at the client an email on behalf of a recipient, the email including a main body and one or more ~~attachments~~; attachments:

determining whether the recipient of the email has distributed storage for storing email ~~attachments~~; attachments by querying a recipient email distributed storage location server:

determining a network address of the recipient's distributed storage for storing email attachments, if the recipient has such distributed ~~storage~~; storage:

periodically determining whether the recipient's distributed storage is available to receive the one or more attachments upon determining the network ~~address~~; address; and

sending the one or more attachments of the email to the recipient's distributed storage for email attachments for storage, upon determining that the recipient's distributed storage for email attachments is available to accept email attachments; and

a processor coupled to the storage medium to execute the programming instructions.

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36. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein said programming instructions are further configured to send an instruction to the recipient's distributed storage for email attachments, instructing the recipient's distributed storage for email attachments to submit a request for the one or more attachments of the email.

37. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 36, wherein said programming instructions are further configured to [[to]] enable the apparatus to send the one or more attachments of the email to the recipient's distributed storage for email attachments upon receipt of a request from the recipient's distributed storage for the one or more attachments of the email.

38. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:
a storage medium having stored therein a plurality of executable programming instructions that, when executed, perform the following steps for providing an email distributed storage location server capability at a client in a peer-to-peer communication system:

receiving a registration to register an email user's distributed storage for email ~~attachments~~, attachments;

storing a network address of the email user's distributed storage for email ~~attachments~~, attachments;

receiving a request from a requestor for the network address of the email user's distributed storage for email ~~attachments~~, attachments; and

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providing the requestor with the network address of the email user's distributed storage for email attachments; and

a processor coupled to the storage medium to execute the programming instructions.

39. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a storage medium having stored therein a plurality of executable programming instructions that, when executed, perform the following steps for servicing email at a distributed storage location in a peer-to-peer communication system:

receiving a request from a selected one of a sender and an incoming email server of a user to pull an attachment of an ~~email~~, email;

submitting, in response, a request to the selected one of the sender and the incoming email server of the user to pull said email ~~attachment~~, attachment;

receiving said email ~~attachment~~, attachment; and

storing said email attachment; and

a processor coupled to the storage medium to execute the programming instructions.

40. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the programming instructions are further configured to perform the following additional steps:

receiving a request from a requestor for the email attachment;

retrieving the email attachment from storage; and

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providing the retrieved email attachment to the requestor upon successfully retrieving said email attachment from storage.

41. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a storage medium having stored therein a plurality of executable programming instructions that, when executed, perform the following steps for servicing email at a client of a recipient of an email in a peer-to-peer communication system:

receiving a request from a user to access an attachment of an ~~email~~, email;

determining whether a distributed storage for storing email attachments for the user is ~~accessible~~, accessible;

determining whether the attachment is stored in said distributed storage if said distributed storage is ~~accessible~~, accessible; and

servicing said request to access said attachment of said email ~~based at least in part on the result of said determination~~ at said distributed storage or at an incoming email server; and

a processor coupled to the storage medium to execute the programming instructions.

42. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the

programming instructions are further configured to ping the user's distributed storage for email attachments to determine whether the user's distributed storage for email attachments is accessible.

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43. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the programming instructions are further configured to perform the servicing of said request ~~said determination results based servicing~~ by retrieving the attachment from the user's distributed storage for storing email attachments if the user's distributed storage for storing email attachments is accessible, and the attachment is stored in the user's distributed storage for storing email attachments.

44. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the programming instructions are further configured to perform the servicing of said request ~~said determination results based servicing~~ by retrieving the attachment from an incoming email server of the user if the user's distributed storage for storing email attachments is accessible, and the attachment is not stored in the user's distributed storage for storing email attachments.

45. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the programming instructions are further configured to perform the servicing of said request ~~said determination results based servicing~~ by attempting to retrieve the attachment from an incoming email server of the user if the user's distributed storage for storing email attachments is not accessible.